

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 01689 081237 Z

71

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 IO-13 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SS-15 USIA-12 RSR-01 /110 W
----- 029788

R 081130 Z JUN 73

FM USINT CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3178

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

S E C R E T CAIRO 1689

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XF, EG

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT' S VIEW OF PROSPECTS IN
MIDDLE EAST

SUMMARY: HAFEZ ISMAIL ON JUNE 7 EXPRESSED HARSHTEST
VERSION I HAVE HEARD OF EGYPTIAN LINE AND PROFESSED
PESSIMISM THAT USG POLICY WILL CHANGE (SIC) ENOUGH TO
PERMIT IMPROVEMENT IN ME SITUATION. HE AGAIN CAST
ASPERSIONS ON INTENTIONS OF USG AND ITS REPRESENTATIVES,
AND CUT SHORT MY EFFORTS TO REASON WITH HIM ABOUT OUR
INTENTIONS AND THE PROSPECTS. WHILE HAFEZ ISMAIL IS
PRONE TO BE THEATRICAL, AND HAS FOR SOME TIME BEEN
TELLING US OF THE COMING APOCALYPSE AND US RESPONSIBILITY
FOR IT, HIS POSITION AT THE CENTER OF POWER, IF NOT
HIS PERSISTENCE, COMPELS OUR ATTENTION TO HIS RHETORIC.
END SUMMARY.

1. I PAID FAREWELL CALL ON HAFEZ ISMAIL JUNE 7 AND AT
THE OUTSET HE DISMISSED NOTETAKER, SAYING THIS WAS A
PERSONAL OCCASION. AFTER AN EXCHANGE OF CORDIAL
AMENITIES, HAFEZ ISMAIL TURNED TO THE PRESENT STATE OF
AFFAIRS AND SAID BLUNTLY HE SAW NO HOPEFUL PROSPECT FOR
PERIOD AHEAD. THIS, HE SAID, WAS BECAUSE HE SEES NO
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 CAIRO 01689 081237 Z

PROSPECT OF A CHANGE IN THE US POSITION ON THE MIDDLE EAST; EGYPTIAN- US RELATIONS HAVE HAD MORE DOWNS THAN UPS SINCE I CAME TO CAIRO LAST YEAR, AND AS FAR AS HE COULD SEE MATTERS ARE GOING TO GET WORSE BETWEEN US. HE SAID HE DID NOT WANT TO SAY " THINGS WILL GET WORSE BEFORE THEY GET BETTER" BECAUSE HE DID NOT SEE HOW THEY COULD GET BETTER.

2. THE LATEST INCIDENT CONTRIBUTING TO THIS VIEW, HE SAID, WAS AMBASSADOR SCALI' S STATEMENT FOLLOWING MEETING WITH PRESIDENT NIXON MAY 29, AND RELATED DISCUSSION WITH PRESS. HAFEZ ISMAIL SAID HE HAD NOTED TEXT OF STATEMENT AS PROVIDED BY USINT, BUT HE HAD ALSO NOTED REPORTS OF Q AND A; IN OFFICIAL VERSION, DISCUSSION OF POSSIBILITY OF INTERIM SETTLEMENT HAD REFERRED TO RE-OPENING SUEZ CANAL AS PART OF ARRANGEMENT WHEREBY THERE WOULD BE PULLBACK OF TROOPS. AP VERSION OF THIS, CARRIED IN INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE MAY 30, HAD REFERRED TO " MUTUAL PULLBACK OF FORCES FROM AREA OF SUEZ CANAL." HAFEZ ISMAIL SAID HE WAS SURE THAT AP HAD IT RIGHT AND OFFICIAL VERSION HAD BEEN EDITED, AND ALL THIS, HE SAID, WAS " HATEFUL."

3. I INTERRUPTED TO SAY THAT I THOUGHT THAT WAS AN UNFORTUNATE AND UNWARRANTED INTERPRETATION. NOBODY IN THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN TALKING ABOUT WITHDRAWAL OF ANY TROOPS BUT THE ISRAELI TROOPS, AND I EXPRESSED HOPE THAT HE AND HIS ASSOCIATES IN GOE COULD COME TO BELIEVE USG MEANS WHAT IT SAYS.

4. ADVERTING TO SCALI STATEMENT AND CURRENT SC DEBATE, HAFEZ ISMAIL ASKED WHAT EGYPT COULD GET OUT OF THE DEBATE IF NOT SOME FORM OF INTERPRETATION OR RE-INTERPRETATION OF SC RES 242. I ACKNOWLEDGED THAT INTERPRETATION OF 242 IS AT HEART OF MATTER, AND ALSO ACKNOWLEDGED THAT GOE DOES NOT LIKE PROPOSED PROXIMITY TALKS. I ATTEMPTED TO ARGUE IMPORTANCE OF SOME KIND OF DIALOGUE THAT ENGAGES THE PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT, TO ARRIVING AT INTERPRETATION ACCEPTABLE TO THOSE PARTIES. HAFEZ ISMAIL WOULD HAVE NONE OF IT; JARRING' S EFFORT AT INTERPRETATION HAD BEEN BLOCKED BY ISRAEL EVEN

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 CAIRO 01689 081237 Z

THOUGH CLEARED BY THE FOUR POWERS, HE SAID. HE ADDED THAT THE PARTIES TO THE DISPUTE ARE THE ISRAELIS AND THE PALESTINIANS, AND THEN ATTACKED US POSTURE AND POLICY AS CALCULATED TO " CORRUPT EGYPT," AND FROM EGYPT EVENTUALLY THE WHOLE ARAB WORLD, SO THAT IN THE END, " THE UNITED STATES CAN COME BACK AND EXERCISE ITS POWER THROUGHOUT THE AREA." AGAIN I PROTESTED

HIS ASCRIBING SUCH MOTIVES TO USG, AND TRIED TO DISCUSS
WHAT WE ARE TRYING TO SAY AND DO.

5. HAFEZ ISMAIL INTERRUPTED TO SAY HE RECOGNIZED
THAT US CAN VETO ANY RESOLUTION THEY DO NOT LIKE BUT
THAT WOULD ONLY CLOSE OFF ONE MORE OPTION AND, HE
SAID, EGYPT' S FRIENDS ARE STILL SUPPLYING ARMS AND EGYPT
CAN EVEN FACE ANOTHER DEFEAT IF THEY HAVE TO. THE
NEXT TWO MONTHS, HE SAID, WILL BE CRITICAL IN ALL THIS ,
AND AS FAR AS EGYPT IS CONCERNED, IT IS UP TO THE
UNITED STATES.

6. COMMENT: BEING EVEN LESS ABLE THAN PREVIOUSLY TO
PENETRATE THE VITRIOL, I CHOSE TO RETURN THE CONVERSA-
TION TO THE FAREWELLS THAT HAD BEEN OCCASION FOR MY
CALL IN THE FIRST PLACE. I FRANKLY DO NOT KNOW HOW
MUCH OF THIS IS FOR REAL, AND HOW MUCH PART OF THE CON-
TINUING EFFORT TO INFLUENCE USG WITH APOCALYPTIC THREATS;
PERHAPS IT WAS ALL PART OF A SHOW TO COVER ANY CONFUSION
LEFT BY ZAYYAT' S OPENING DAY SPEECH IN NEW YORK. IN
ANY EVENT, IT IS AWESOME TO PONDER THAT HAFEZ ISMAIL
AND SADA
E E E E E E E

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 JUN 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973CAIRO01689
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730621/aaaajcpv.tel
Line Count: 136
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 03 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03-Oct-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <06-Dec-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> wfs 980209
Subject: EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT' S VIEW OF PROSPECTS IN MIDDLE EAST
TAGS: PFOR, EG, XF
To: NEA
SECSTATE WASHDC
TEL AVIV
USUN
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005